

The President/Principal's Newsletter for Nov 04 - 10, 2013



It's early Sunday morning and in a few hours we will have our annual Open House for prospective students for 2014-15. I have no idea as to how many people (if any) will attend, but we've prepared better than ever: maintenance has cleaned and polished, Botancial Wolves have planted beautiful flowers and shrubs, students have prepared talks, student hosts have been briefed, and faculty have presentations ready. Many people have worked hard to make this our best Open House ever, including the Dads' Club and Botanical Wolves who worked on Saturday. Thanks to Trevor Watkins, the department chairs, Karen Hebert, student hosts, & Mothers Club. Don, the maintenance crew (and even the Saturday school kids) worked on Saturday with last minute details. Thanks to all!

The "mood" among private schools in our area (on both shores) is guarded about enrollment as evidenced by an inordinate amount of private school advertising. Everyone is concerned. An anemic economy, charter schools on the southshore, and excellent public school system here in St. Tammany, & the amount of students vs. the number of schools make for challenging times for private schools.

So how will SPS fare? If we are faithful to our Mission and remember Saint John Baptist de La Salle's directive to the first Brothers that we are doing God's work (*Domine, Opus Tuum – Lord, the Work is Yours!*), we will do just fine. While athletics, academics, and facilities are all integral parts of a good school, our fidelity to the Lasallian Mission and our unswerving belief in the presence of God will be our salvation – both here on earth and ultimately in the next life.

Domine, Opus Tuum – no better message for us ALL to remember as we begin this new admission season in preparation for 2013-14 – our 103rd year of existence!

Mon, Nov 4 (Regular; G A B C)

- **TDIH:** In 1979, Iranian student followers of the Ayatollah Khomeini storm the U.S. embassy in Tehran. The radical Islamic fundamentalists keep 52 Americans hostage for the next 14 months.
- Use Your Common Sense Day: While CS should be used EVERY day, make a special effort today!
- Basketball Meet the Team (6:30)

Tue, Nov 5 (Pack Time Schedule; D E F G)

- **Guy Fawkes Day:** *Remember, remember the fifth of November:* On this day in 1605, Guy Fawkes and a group of conspirators are arrested while trying to blow up England's Parliament. The day is celebrated in England with bonfires and fireworks. Only the British!
- Cross Country District Meet at Ponchatoula: Geaux Wolves, as you defend your District Championship!
- **Drama Preview Night:** We wish Denny, Barrett, & the Marian Players the best as they begin their run of *Teahouse of the August Moon*. Please encourage your students to attend.

Wed, Nov 6 (Regular; A B C D)



- **TDIH:** In 1936, 58 Brothers of the Christian Schools died in defense of their faith and their religious identity during the Spanish religious persecution. These Brothers recognized the strength of their own faith, confessing their state as believers and as religious. Before their death they were imprisoned, tortured, and condemned without a trial through no fault of their own. They refused to renounce their religious identity or to abandon the school or the community to save their lives. All died heroically as they pardoned their executioners and proclaimed Christ as the only King and Lord of their lives. These men are examples of faith and inspirations.
- National Nacho Day: Enjoy this treat today! Ole! Trivia: Nacho is short for a cook named Ignacio Anaya in the Mexican town of Piedras Negras (across the border from Eagle Pass, TX) who is

recorded to have first served this dish in 1943 to a dozen ladies on a shopping trip who came to the restaurant after it had closed. This was a simple dish that Ignacio had the ingredients for so he served it and called it simply, **Nachos Especiales**. And now you know!

- Engineering Open House (see below for more info): 6:30 in La Salle Hall.
- **Drama:** *Teahouse of the August Moon* opens to public (7 pm)

Thu, Nov 7 (Regular; E F G A)

- **TDIH:** In 1944, Franklin Roosevelt is re-elected to an unprecedented third term as president.
- National Men Make Dinner Day: OK, guys, time to step up and cook dinner tonight!
- National Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day: Indulge!
- Lasallian Counselors Mtg: Renee Miller & Gina Hall travel to CA today (thru Sat) to meet with counselors in Lasallian schools of the Districts of New Orleans-Santa Fe & San Francisco, soon to be the District of San Francisco New Orleans.
- Soccer Meet the Team (6)
- **Drama:** Teahouse of the August Moon (7 pm)

Fri, Nov 8 (Regular; B C D E)

- **This Day in History:** In 1793, the revolutionary French government opens the Louvre as a public museum. Today, the Louvre's collection is one of the richest in the world, with artwork and artifacts representative of 11,000 years of civilization and culture. Spend time on The Louvre's website (http://www.louvre.fr/en) to absorb some culture.
- National Abet and Aid Punsters Day: a day to make dreadful puns. See H of the W for my contributions!
- **Football:** Wolves in regular season finale against Fontainebleau (7)

Sat, Nov 9

• **TDIH:** In 1938, in a Holocaust foreshadowing, German Nazis terrorized Jewish people and destroyed their homes & businesses in Germany and Austria. The violence, which continued through

Nov 10, was later dubbed "Kristallnacht," or "Night of Broken Glass," after the countless smashed windows of Jewish-owned businesses.

• **Drama:** *Teahouse of the August Moon* (7 pm)

• Wrestling: Jr Hi, JV, & Varsity in Mandeville Open

• Swimming: Aqua Wolves in Last Chance Meet at Kehoe France

Sun, Nov 10

- **TDIH:** In 1969, "Sesame Street," a pioneering TV show that would teach generations of young children the alphabet and how to count, makes its broadcast debut. "Sesame Street," with its memorable theme song ("Can you tell me how to get/How to get to Sesame Street"), went on to become the most widely viewed children's program in the world. It has aired in more than 120 countries.
- Tongue Twister Day: Peter Piper and the girl selling sea shells by the seashore are child's play in comparison to what is considered, according to the Guinness Book of World Records, the most difficult tongue twister in the English language: "The sixth sick sheikh's sixth sheep's sick." Practice it today!
- **Drama:** *Teahouse of the August Moon* (3 pm)



Freshmen Science Wolves learn while having fun in the lab.

November: In case you are looking to celebrate something, November is National Adoption Month, AIDS Awareness Month, Alzheimer's Disease Month, American Diabetes Month, American Indian Heritage Month, Aviation History Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, Epilepsy Awareness Month, Family Caregivers Month, Family Stories Month, Georgia Pecan Month, Gluten-Free Diet Awareness Month Inspirational Role Models Month, Lifewriting Month, Long-Term Care Awareness Month, Lung Cancer Awareness Month, Month of the Military Family, Peanut Butter Lovers' Month, Pet Cancer Awareness Month, Pomegranate Month, Prematurity Awareness Month, Roasting Month, Scholarship Month, and Vegan Month -- something for everyone! And here's some Good Advice To Begin November: Remember not

only to say the right thing in the right place, but far more difficult still, to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment. (Benjamin Franklin)

Musings from Last Week:

- All Saints Day: The mass was wonderful. Thanks to Campus Ministry, Liturgical Band, & all who helped. And thanks to the many parents who joined us for mass. You are always welcome!
- **Dia de los Muertos:** Moving, as usual. Thanks to the Spanish Dept and the Spanish Club for this meaningful service, which, I'm sure, grows in impact on a yearly basis. Ruega por nosotros!
- **FB:** Wow! What a Friday night against Ponchatoula! Congrats to the Gridiron Wolves!
- CLs, MWs & GBs: They all acquitted themselves in an exemplary manner as well on Friday night.
- Wolf Tracks: Congrats to Danielle for another excellent Wolf Tracks!

- Mothers Club: Thanks for the Snack Day!
- Winter Sports: And our wrestling, basketball and soccer seasons got started last week with tryouts and practices. Please know we try to be sensitive to those students in basketball and soccer who did not make the team. We encourage them to become involved in another sport that can accommodate them. Or try something new, like the Marching Wolves, Paper Wolf, Lasallian Young Leaders, Marian Players, Shell Eco Car, Env Science, etc., etc. (Yes, I know that's redundant.)
- Saturday was one of those extraordinary SPS days: Linda Connor and the Botanical Wolves (including some students) planted new gardens, Alex Weiner & his boy scout troop installed a new garden by Signum Fidei pavilion for his Eagle Scout project, Trevor Watkins constructed a beautiful garden in front of BAC, our custodians were cleaning the buildings, five student volunteers (Evan McDonnell, Wyatt Lang, Devin Caruso, Turner Valois, & Myers Morgan) helped me collect over six full bags of campus trash & clean the Bragg Fountain, the soccer parents were finishing the soccer dressing room, the baseball dads were working on the field to say nothing of football practice, SAT taking, etc. It was extraordinary to see so many people involved in SPS. I'm filled with gratitude.

Admissions: I annually get inquiries about "chances of getting in." Please don't tell people it's "very difficult" or in any way discourage them from applying. The fact is, most qualified applicants who apply ON TIME gain admission. That's the key – applying on time. FYI, here is the "official" line which we presented at Open House: Saint Paul's strives to accept all students who have the ability to benefit from enrollment. All applicants are given serious consideration. In years when the number of such applicants exceeds the available space, the following policies, issued by the Saint Paul's Board of Trustees, guide the Admission Committee in its deliberations:

- We are committed to our Lasallian mission to be an inclusive school community, with a special sensitivity and outreach to those in need.
- We are committed to families who have traditionally been associated with our mission and vision as evidenced by previous enrollment and support.
- We are committed to students in Catholic elementary schools that have traditionally been supportive of our mission and vision and whose students have historically enrolled here.
- We are committed to students who practice the Catholic faith.
- We are committed to all other students as space allows.

Thus, acceptance or non-acceptance is not determined by any one factor, including academic achievement. Non-acceptance does not mean that a student is not qualified or deserving of enrollment here. We do not wish to turn away any deserving student, but sometimes our physical facilities prevent us from accepting all such students

Social Justice Month: The Church dedicates Nov to social justice. While most of us concentrate on such things as Thanksgiving Food Drives, the Church reminds us that a commitment to social justice goes WAY beyond acts of charity – in involves working for change that will make us a more just society. The Church's social teaching is a rich treasure of wisdom about building a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. There are 7 key themes that comprise our Catholic social tradition. I doubt, however, if most of us know these seven: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; the Call to Family and Community; the Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; Dignity of Work & Rights of Workers; Solidarity; Care for God's Creation. I encourage you to pray the following Prayer for Social Justice on a regular basis during the month of

November: Almighty and eternal God, may your grace enkindle in all of us a love for the many unfortunate people whom poverty and misery reduce to a condition of life unworthy of human beings. Arouse in the hearts of those who call you Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth. Grant, O Lord, peace to souls, peace to families, peace to our country, and peace among nations! Amen

Last Tue's Assembly: I hope the students enjoyed our Oct 29 assembly. Here's some of what we did:

- Entered the gym listening to a stirring rendition of the Ride of the Valkyries, which opens the third act of *Die Valkyrie*, an opera written by German composer Richard Wagner (1813-1883.) Wagner is often credited with ushering in the Modern Era of music with complex and elaborate motifs. The selection takes place as the Valkyries, daughters of the Norse god Wodin, sweep the battlefield and collect the slain solders, taking them to Valhalla. It's powerful, and I used it because it's very "Halloween": ghosts, underworld, death and I then begged the students to make good, safe choices this upcoming Halloween season.
- Prayed in a special way, as the prayer candle was lit by junior Colin Hanley, for the following who have entered eternal rest since our last assembly: Pre-Freshman David Manton's grandfather; freshman Matthew Catanzaro's maternal grandfather; Pre-freshman Christopher Boon's

grandmother, Mrs. Emma Brierre Boone; sophomore Oliver Guice's grandfather, Mr. James Christopher, and senior Ethan Lowry's grandmother, Mrs. Esther Kenney.

- Recognized and congratulated Coach Ryan Spencer on the birth of his first child, a boy, named Brooks Reed Spencer.
- Recognized and congratulated Mrs. Myrle
 Wiggins on the birth of her first granddaughter,
 Elise Grace.



FB Wolves participate in All Saints Day mass.

- Recognized and congratulated Pre-freshman Kent Shiell on his recent tennis accomplishments. In
 the prestigious Louisiana State Jr. Claycourt Championships at the New Orleans Lawn Tennis Club
 players from Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Missouri and North Carolina were on hand for the
 Level 4 tournament. Kent won the Boys 14 doubles and was the runner up in the Boys 16 Singles.
 His brother, Kurt Schiell, made it to the quarterfinals.
- Recognized and congratulated **Kevin Baker, John Cresson, & Zachary Scheurich** for participating in the Catholic Charities SERVE Program on the North Shore. SERVE (Students Engaging in Reflective Volunteer Experiences) is a program for high school students to serve the poor and needy in their community. This past summer, Kevin, John, and Zachary became shepherds to young campers who come from families experiencing tough financial challenges at Camp Upward at Faith Bible Church in Covington. They played games and outdoor sports, helped with arts and crafts and

gave many smiles to the children. They also had an opportunity to learn more about the challenges faced by the children and their families. SERVE concluded with a full day of reflection filled with spiritual exercises and thought-provoking activities that reinforced the importance of compassion and service. I hope more Saint Paul's students participate in this program next summer!

Recognized and congratulated the all involved in the 19th Annual SPS Math Tournament on Sep 28. There were approximately 230 students from 12 different schools. We divided the schools into two divisions--magnet schools and small schools. We put ourselves, Catholic High and St. Joseph's Academy in the magnet school division. We deliberately competed in only 4 of the 7 levels of competition. When the calculator batteries had died, here were the results: Ashton Van Deventer (2nd in Pre-Algebra), Ian Nicaud (3rd in Pre-Algebra), John Connor Flick (HM in Pre-Algebra), Alex Oliveri (HM in Algebra I), Ryan Meraux (2nd in Geometry), Luke Avenel (HM in Geometry), Ruston Keller (HM in Geometry), Aaron Nguyen (2nd in Algebra II), Walden Perry (HM in Alg II), Kyle Cleveland (HM in Alg II), the Pre-Algebra Team of Ealon Boudreaux, Ian Nicoud, & Brandon Nicotri placed 1st, the Pre-Algebra Team of John Connor Flick, Patrick Baldone, & Ashton VanDeventer placed 2nd, the Geometry Team of Luke Avenel, Ryan Meraux, Ruston Keller, & Jacob Broussard placed 2nd, the Algebra II Team of Aaron Nguyen, Max Gold, Winston Duffour & Burke Irwin placed 3rd. In the Whole School Test, SPS placed 3rd. As a result, SPS placed 2nd overall in the tourney -- pretty impressive considering we only competed in half of the possible tests.

Special Thanks to: Karen Hebert for opening the BAC at 7 am, making coffee, and helping set up the hospitality room, to the Math Dept teachers for writing tests, proctoring competitions, and making sure all was running smoothly, and to the Mother's Club for providing food and drink for the visiting teachers and students. All in all, 10 math teachers, 31 Fighting Math Wolves, 34 student helpers help run tests, and 14 students who picked up the chairs and tables in the BAC so the Homecoming Dance could go on as planned were involved. Whew! Well done, Math Wolves!

- Recognized and congratulated the Lasallian Young Leaders and the whole student body for a successful Warm Hearts Drive. Almost 1000 pieces of winter wear were collected to assist the poort and elderly of our area to weather the upcoming winter.
- And then, as if by magic, Gioachino Antonio Rossini's William Tell Overture started playing which signaled that our Cross Country Team was still accomplishing great things. The CC team has now finished what might be called a perfect season, in that they competed in 6 meets and captured the first place trophy in each, earning for state composite ranking as the number 1 team in the state for the first 8 weeks of the cross country season. So after 8 weeks of the regular Cross Country season, the team presented the following trophies and plaques to Athletic Director Coach Craig Ketelsen:
 - o St. Michael Bayou Boogie: 1st place varsity
 - o Gulf Coast Coast Stampede: 1st place Varsity, 1st place Junior Varsity
 - o Christian Brothers Invitational: 1st place Varsity, 1st place Junior Varsity, and 1st place Jr Hi
 - o St. Joseph Academy: 1st place Varsity & 3rd place Junior High
 - o Catholic High: 1st place Varsity & 2nd Place Junior High
 - o Walker Shoot Out: 1st place Varsity

- Encouraged the student body to promote our upcoming Open House and the best way they can do that is by acting as exemplary Lasallians in the community.
- Ran out of time before I could do any more recognitions which will "roll over" to the next assembly! We then robustly sang the Fight Song for all of the activities going on around school.
- As the prayer candle was extinguished by junior **Jack Dubreuil**, I reminded the students that they must leave the gym and be the Light of God to all whom they meet. The students exited to the strains of "Ride of the Valkyries." It was a great assembly!

Car Lines: I know car line is not the most pleasant part of the day. We've got the morning one pretty much under control and things flow pretty smoothly. The afternoon, however, still presents some challenges. When you arrive before 3, please pull up as far as possible in the car line lane in front of Founders Circle. This will allow the maximum number of cars to be in the line. Ask your son to look for you and hustle to the car. We've actually had cars hold up the line while the students finished chatting or playing hacky-sack. And safety is paramount, so please respect campus speed limit of 15 mph. Thanks!

Important Driver's License Requirement: Effective September 16, a new requirement was added to the driver's license issuance process for all minor applicants. All minor applicants must produce proof the applicant has either received a diploma or is currently enrolled in a high school program. This is done through a completed school attendance form from his or her high school prior to applying for a driver's license.

Any SPS student needing this form should come to Counseling Office or Administration Building Office to request the form.

Engineering Program Open House: SPS is the only school around with a four year, CERTIFIED PLTW Engineering Program. In order to better spread the news about this program, we will have an Open House for our Engineering Program for parents of 8th/9th/10th graders at 6:30 PM on November 6 in LaSalle Hall. We will explain the PLTW program and parents will have the opportunity to hear and see about the four engineering classes that we teach. You are invited to attend.

Lost and Found: The accumulation continues. Sweatshirts, pants, belts, uniform shirts, many, many lunch boxes, a very nice pair of Sperry Top Sider black dress shoes (if they were one size larger I'd be wearing them!), books, art supplies, pencil cases, folders, flash drives, you name, it's probably in our lost and found. Parents, please put your son's name on things and stress with your son the need to be responsible with his belongings.

The Paper Wolf: The all new DIGITAL Paper Wolf is updated each class period, thus keeping it relevant and interesting. We encourage you to SUBSCRIBE which will email you alerts when new content is added. The students are very excited about this new venture. So support them and subscribe to The Paper Wolf (which should now probably be called The Digital Wolf!) Here's the link: www.thepaperwolf.com. Well done, Mrs. Simoneaux & Journalism class!

Attendance: Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

And Speaking of Edline: Please check Edline regularly for important info about your son's grade and SPS life. *Call Mike Holmes, Edline administrator, at 892-3200, ext. 1044 if you need assistance.*

Tutoring: The National Honor Society offers tutoring each Tue and Thu during ALL of Lunch in LaSalle Hall Room 205 and each Wed and Thu from 7:15AM in LaSalle Hall Room 212. It's much easier to be tutored early in the quarter than to wait until later in the quarter. The tutors and very friendly and helpful!

Contests: We've added a webpage listing various contests for students to enter (http://www.stpauls.com/academics/academic-contests/). Why enter contests? Many reasons:

- Students can win prizes (a number of our guys won cash prizes last year)
- It looks great on college resumes
- It prepares students for the competitive life of the real world.

Yes, it's a little extra work, but the rewards are worth it – even if students don't win. Encourage you son to explore academic, artistic, musical and other contests.

Community Coffee Seals: We are now collecting these, too, which can be redeemed for cash to help SPS. Your son should bring them to his math teacher.

Honor Roll Breakfasts: We look forward to recognizing our First Quarter HR students and their parents at this event (SPS pioneered HR breakfasts in our area starting in 1990.). We will continue to have the breakfasts in the cafeteria. Since the cafeteria can only handle so many people, we must do the breakfasts by level. Invitations were emailed last week, but here's the schedule:

Mon, Nov 11 – HR Breakfast for Grade 8 HR students and their parents Wed, Nov 13 – HR Breakfast for Grade 9 HR students and their parents Thu, Nov 14 – HR Breakfast for Grade 10 HR students and their parents Fri, Nov 15 – HR Breakfast for Grade 11 HR students and their parents Mon, Nov 18 – HR Breakfast for Grade 12 HR students and their parents

We begin serving at 7:40 and the event is over by 8:20. Honor Roll students report directly to the cafeteria; they do not report to their first block class.

Drama Department: Our acclaimed Drama Department, the Marian Players, will present the Pulitzer Prize winning play "Teahouse of the August Moon" on Nov 6, 7 & 9 at 7 pm and on Nov 10 at 3. Tickets are on sale in the admin building. Get your tickets early as our shows usually sell out. The cast and crew have been working hard to make this another outstanding production. Thanks, Mrs. Charbonnet and Marian Players.

PLEASE – SAFE DRIVING: We had another report last week of unsafe driving heading up 11th street, down Jahncke, and into SPS property. Please obey the traffic laws: speed limit, no tailgating, no texting while driving, buckle up, etc. Thank you!

Humor of the Week: In honor of Thursday's National Pun Day, here are some "oldies but goodies" but some are new to me! Thanks to our pun-promoting Provincial Brother Tim Coldwell for sending these recently:

- An elevator makes ghosts happy because it lifts the spirits.
- Cows make noise only when they're in the mood.
- I'm reading a book on anti-gravity and can't put it down.
- He wears glasses during math because it improves division.
- "You're so pointless!" said the triangle to the circle.
- It's a lengthy article on Japanese Sword Fighters but I can Samurais it for you. (hilarious!)
- I was kicked out of math class for one too many infractions.
- I used to climb rocks as a youth, but I was boulder back then.
- An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.
- *Never lie to x-ray technicians. They can see right through you.*
- I used to be a banker but then I lost interest.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- A will is a dead giveaway.
- Time flies like an arrow; fruit flies like a banana. (a fav of mine!)
- A backward poet writes inverse.
- A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.
- You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
- He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
- A calendar's days are numbered.
- OK, I'll stop

A Look Ahead

November 6 – Engineering Open House for Parents 6:30

November $11 - 8^{th}$ Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 12 – President/Principal's Assembly

November 13 – 9th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 14 – 8th Grade Retreat/Service Day – 10th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November $15-8^{th}$ Grade Retreat/Service Day -11^{th} Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 -8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 18 – 12th Grade Honor Roll Breakfast (7:40 – 8:20 in the cafeteria)

November 19 – Pack Time

November 22 - No classes meet - Faculty at Huether Conference

December 2 – Parent/Teacher Meetings in BAC -6:30 – PLAN test to Sophomores

December 2-6 – PLAN Test to Sophomores during W. History classes

December 3 – President/Principal's Assembly

December 5 – Blood Drive

December 9 – Mass

December 10 - Pack Time

December 12 – Snack Day

December 11-13 – Reconciliation in Chapel

December 17-20 - Exams

Whew! I've worn you out again this week! As usual, I'll close with my usual paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I'm listening to now and LOLing): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time reading my ramblings! Let me know if there's an issue you would like me to address in my newsletters or a question you think applies to others.

Pray that things go well! We're already reached the fourth week of the second quarter! Time marches relentless on, and the only thing we can do about it is decide how we use each second of each minute of each day of each week of each month of each....OK, you get the idea.

May our year be one of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2013-14 edition of Saint Paul's – our 102nd year of existence!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Can't Believe It's November Already and I'm Still the 17th Christian Brother President/Principal of Saint Paul's School



...and where we do ordinary things extraordinarily well!